



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

"OUR CZECH LIFE"

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

SPRING 2016

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1

TOCA RECOGNIZED LESLIE AND GEORGIA ZAJICEK KOVAR FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF VOLUNTEERISM.

Leslie and Georgia began volunteering at TCHCC soon after the restoration of Kalich House in 2001, when it opened as the TCHCC Visitor's Center. Georgia and Leslie have continued to volunteer since then in whatever jobs needed to be done. That included cooking, cleaning, gardening, greeting and guiding visitors, helping in the concession stand or running a bake sale. They were always there to help. She was very professional and pleasant in her dealings with our visitors at a time when we were just getting started and people were checking us out. Her love of the Czech heritage and her pride to announce that she and Leslie are 100% Czech is very dear to her and she is always happy to share with others. She loves an opportunity to speak Czech with visitors. In the past few years, we have had many visitors from the Czech Republic and she just lights up when she can communicate with them in Czech. Her loyalty and dedication are to be commended. Continued on page 3.



The Kovar Family. L-R: Sharon Vinklerek, Steve Kovar, Leslie and Georgia Kovar, Mike Kovar with TCHCC President Retta Chandler and TOCA President Arlene Cloyd.



Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity.

Náš Český Život
"Our Czech Life"

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

250 W. Fairgrounds Road/P. O. Box 6
La Grange, Texas 78945-0006
(979) 968-9399 Toll Free (888) 785-4500
FAX (979) 968-9249
Web Page;:www.czechtexas.org
E-mail: info@czechtexas.org

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Newsletter Policy: The purpose of Náš Český Život is to disseminate news of the development and activities of the center, as well as to publish material on the history, culture, and accomplishments of Texas Czechs. Náš Český Život does not involve itself in matters of a political nature.

Newsletter Address: All articles, photographs, advertising and correspondence should be directed to Retta Chandler or Janis Hrnčíř, co-editors, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-9399.

Articles: Anyone may submit articles, which will be accepted for inclusion as space permits and subject to review and editing as necessary. All articles must be typewritten. The publication is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material not submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ads: Contact the co-editors regarding advertising. Advertising Rates: We will accept limited advertising-only standard business card size (3 1/2" X 2") - \$20.00 per issue; Send camera-ready business cards to co-editors.

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. does not endorse or guarantee the products or services that are advertised in this publication.

OUR MISSION

The MISSION of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. is to provide a central facility for the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of individuals of Czech ethnicity who can trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present day Czech Republic or former Austria-Hungary (including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia), to honor those immigrants, and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes.

The GOALS of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. are:

To educate the public about the past and present contributions and status of persons of Czech descent

To encourage the study and preservation of the Czech language, fine arts, music and dance

To provide for the preservation and exhibition of artifacts that are historically significant to the Czech people of Texas

To provide a library and archives for the collection and preservation of books, newspapers, periodicals, family histories, research material, photographs and all printed data of historical significance to the Czech people of Texas

To provide adequate space for gatherings, meetings and educational activities for the benefit of the Czech people of Texas

To encourage and promote a cultural exchange program between the Czech people of Texas and the citizens of the Czech Republic

To provide the public with updated information regarding Czech-related activities and historical sites in Texas, the United States and abroad.

You are invited to continue receiving the newsletter Náš Český Život and an annual calendar by sending in your ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP. This journal will only be sent to members. Support your Center — **JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.**

2017 TCHCC CALENDAR

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center
(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)
is approaching 20 years of age!

To celebrate this milestone and to THANK all of our members we wish to honor them by filling the 2017 calendar with pictures of their families. It is the best way we can think of to thank those who have supported us throughout these years monetarily, through attendance at our events, and by volunteering.

The picture can be from any decade up to the present. Perhaps you had a family portrait made, or took a COLOR picture during the holidays when all of the family was home. Please submit them as a photo that cannot be returned by mail to

TCHCC, P. O. Box 6, LaGrange, Tx 78945

OR

email tiffs or jpgs to Janis@hrncir.com

Deadline: July 1, 2016.

In Memorium/Zpominky. It is with a sad heart that we begin this newsletter. So many of our loyal members have passed in the last few years. In the past two months we have lost a few more dear souls who have gone to their heavenly reward after spending their lives in celebrating and preserving their Czech heritage. They will not be forgotten and their contributions will be preserved at TCHCC. May they rest in peace, S Panem Bohem.

GEORGE HLAVINKA 1932-2016

George Hlavinka passed away Thursday, April 7, 2016 at his home near Caldwell. He was born March 1, 1932 in East Bernard, Texas to Martin and Victoria Hlavinka. George was extremely proud of his Czech heritage and was proficient in the Czech language, he had many creative talents which included oil painting, gardening, hunting, hand carvings, building custom wooden furniture and creating Wallachian - Style bee hives from hollow tree trunks. George was also involved in many Czech organizations and activities including the Czech Heritage Society and Burleson County Czech Museum. He was also one of the founders of the Kolache Festival in Caldwell, Texas. George was able to fulfill his lifetime dream by traveling to the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and Amsterdam with family and friends over the past several years making contact with distant relatives. He also enjoyed Saltwater Fishing, boating and entertaining friends at his summer home that he called his "B&B" located in Port Lavaca, Texas. George was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Shirley Ann, his parents Martin and Victoria Hlavinka, and four brothers and sisters. Survivors include daughters Diana Bradshaw of Caldwell, Texas and Estelle Smith of Houston, Texas, a brother Mike Hlavinka of Port Arthur, Texas, a niece, Eva Batlg of Baytown, Texas. Two grandchildren, Tomas Gene Thornton, Jr. and Stephanie Nicole Smith and two great grandsons.

Please refer to page 20 of this newsletter where his Walking Trail Shelters are mentioned. His beehive can be seen in the museum and his table & chairs grace the library - donated by Pat Parma in memory of Frank Parma.



RUDOLPH ROBERT REZCEK 1939-2016

Rudy Rejcek died Saturday, April 23, 2016. Rudy was born April 12, 1939, the 15th of 16 children, to John and Agnes Kohut Rejcek in Abbott. It was there he met the love of his life, Janie Hubik Rejcek. During his service in the Army, they married and later moved to Arlington where he worked over 33 years at General Motors and raised five children. He was very involved in his children's lives and would do just about anything they asked of him, including coaching sports and welcoming their friends into his home. Rudy retired in Mansfield where he enjoyed gardening, raising chickens and goats, and visits from his grandchildren. With a golden heart, he enjoyed doing charity work mostly through the Knights of Columbus where he was a fourth-degree member and past Grand Knight and the Men's Club at St. Vincent de Paul where he was an usher for many years. Rudy was also involved with SPJST, KJT, and president of RVOS local lodge. He was proud of his family, Czech heritage and involvement in the Czech Family Band, but, above all else, he was a Christian and led his life accordingly. Rudy was preceded in death by his daughter, Sandra; siblings, Johnnie, Jerome, Louise, Alphonse, Jody, Raymond, Willie, Martha, Rudolfina, Leo, Edward and Felix. Survivors: His wife of 53 years, Janie; sons, Steven and wife, Amy, Randall; daughters, Lorrie Anderle and husband, Gary, Rhonda Steelman and husband, Jeff; sisters, Mary, Wille Mae, Edna; 14 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He had a great love of music and showed this by playing the saxophone and clarinet in the Family Band. **Rudy donated two instruments to TCHCC in 2012 and we are proud to display them in our music museum (See page 6).**

ROSIE LOSS BODIEN 1943-2015

We learned of the passing of Rosemary Rosie Bodien from an article in the Western Fraternal Magazine *Fraternal Herald*, vol 119, No. 4: *She was a 50-year member and served as President and Vice President of No. 181, Seattle, Washington. Rosie was the Czech Cultural Heritage Liaison, MVP of the National Fraternal Congress of America in 2010, and Founder of Chair of the Czech/ Slovak Interest Group for Genealogical Research.... She browsed antique shops for Czech items and purchased her first Czech perfume bottle in 1994 in Salem, Oregon. Over the next 20 years she amassed an impressive collection, not just of vanity glass, but of glass Brychta figurines, Czech pottery and Czech dolls.*

"I first met Rosie and her husband, Danforth, when they visited TCHCC in 2009. They were on their way to the Carolinas to visit family and began donating items to the Center" states Janis Hrcncir. They were all donated in honor of her parents, Ladd and Lydia Straka Loss. She first brought ceramics, then Brychta figurines and vanity glass. Many of these items she mailed to us, carefully wrapped and insured. She would call and let us know that another donation was on the way. Her last donation was that of hand made Moravian wooden painted plates sent in 2015."

Right: Rosie and Danforth Bodien at TCHCC in 2009 with a few of their first donated items.



RAYMOND SNOKHOUS 1926-2016

Raymond J. "Popeye" Snokhous, age 86, of West, formerly of Houston, passed away early Friday morning! February 26, 2016 at his residence.

Raymond was born August 18, 1929 in West, the son of the late Ludwig J. "Louis" and Sidonia (Dvorsky) [Snokhous]. He was a very proud alumni of St. Mary's School in West and was a 1947 graduate of West High School, prior to attending Hill Junior College in Hillsboro. Raymond went on to receive a Master's Degree in Finance from the University of Houston and his Jurisprudence Degree from the South Texas College School of Law in Houston. He served his country in the United States Army with the 101st Air Borne stateside during the Korean War. On September 5, 1952 he was united in marriage to Jolene Grant in Houston. Jolene preceded him in death on April 11, 1997. Raymond was then united in marriage to Clarice Ann Marik on November 20, 1999 in Magdalena, Moravia, Czech Republic.

Raymond was employed by Gulf Oil Corporation from 1952 through 1983, holding various positions in accounting, tax, law and government relations. In 1983 he joined Houston Lighting and Power Company as Group Vice President of External Affairs and retired as Senior Vice-President of Government and Regulatory Affairs. He also served as the

Honorary Consul General Emeritus of the Czech Republic for the State of Texas. He was a very faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption in West. Raymond was a member of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Council, Czech Heritage Society of Texas McLennan-Hill Chapter, KIT Lodge #31, American Legion Post #478, National Rifle Association, SPJST Lodge #54, the Czech Center Museum of Houston, a former member of the International Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and many other organizations. Raymond also served on the Board for the Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center in LaGrange and St. Peter's Catholic Student Center.

During the eight years that Ray served on the TCHCC Board of Director, he contributed so much to helping us make important decisions. We greatly respected his opinions and suggestions, which made him a valued member and one that we will truly miss.

At the same time, Ray and Clarice were working all over the state to promote Czech heritage. In his position as Honorary Consul General, they gave of their time to all of the Czech organizations and attended many Czech celebrations to show their support. Not only that, they also generously supported their church and helped in the restoration of Catholic churches in the Czech Republic. They hosted Texas visits of many Czech dignitaries. They opened up their home in West to all at any time.

He loved God, his family, his many friends and his country, and his hometown of West. He was very proud of his Czech heritage and made every effort to promote it. We would like to remember Ray as being fun-loving and good-natured. He did like to tease those he liked. Ray knew that they had a come-back for him that he enjoyed. We would like to remember Ray for his wisdom, generosity and loyalty, for the enormous accomplishments that he made during his lifetime, and the many lives that he touched in a caring and loving way.

TCHCC President Retta Chandler



MATT S. VANEK 1927-2016



Matt S. Vanek, husband, father, brother, uncle, grandpa and friend passed away on Saturday, March 26 after a lengthy illness. Matt was born in Moravia, Texas on March 13, 1927. Matt never ceased to read the newspaper, magazines, and books. Matt was an independent and insightful source of commentary regarding local, national, and world news, and enjoyed fraternal work.

Matt was devoted to his wife Henrietta for over 60 years who survives him, also five sons James (Monica) of Hallettsville, Matthew (Mary), Dennis (Donna), Kenneth and Thomas all in Victoria and five grandchildren Christopher, Jamie, Jonathon, Dana, and Dean. Matt is preceded by parents Joe and Mary (Tylich) Vanek, three brothers Ted, Edwin, and Frankie, and sisters Ida Boswell and Helen Kalmus.

Matt served the US Navy in World War II, then he started a career with International Harvester Corp for 18 years then worked for Gulf Truck and Tractor for over 30 years. He also retired as a Director and Agent of RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company, and as a Director and Agent of Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas (SPJST), both located in Temple Texas. He served as a Director of the Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange Texas, a third generation cattle rancher in Moravia, assisted the Boy Scouts of America Troop 364 helping his sons obtain Eagle Scout rankings, organizer of the Vanek Brothers Band now known as the EZ Country Band.

He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, KJT 115, Knights of Columbus council 1329, VFW post 4116, American Legion post 166, Hermann Sons Life, SPJST lodge 32, Victoria County Czech Heritage Society, and the Texas Heritage and Cultural Center.

TEXANS OF CZECH ANCESTRY (TOCA) ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY April 9, 2016

The 14th Annual TOCA Awards Ceremony was held in the Hanslik Hall at TCHCC. A Wine and Cheese Reception began the evening in the Koliba Foyer hosted by SPJST. KJZT provided the musical talent of Henry Machicek and RVOS contributed the Hanslik Hall Rental. A catered dinner was served to all the guests and individuals from the eleven organizations that were honored.



SPJST 2016 HONOREE
KATHLEEN POLASEK



TOCA 2016 HONOREE
EILEEN ROSIPAL



KJT 2016 HONOREES
THEODORE AND SARAH VITEK



KJZT 2016 HONOREE
LOUISE POLASEK

Leslie and Georgia Kovar continued...

Over those years, the hours of volunteer time that these two have donated to TCHCC are enormous. We are so grateful that they had shared their time to help promote and preserve Czech heritage. We would not have this Center if it were not for generous volunteers like Georgia and Leslie. When notified of this award, Georgia said the following: "We are very proud of TCHCC and that La Grange was chosen as the place to build this Czech Center that was dedicated in October of 2009. We are proud Czechs and hope TCHCC will continue to be a place where people visit and help in any way and continue to make contributions to keep this lively place active and having visitors." We thank them for their hard work that have made TCHCC better.



CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2016 HONOREES
JOE AND ALICE JANECKA
who were not present due to illness.



CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY - FORT BEND
COUNTY 2016 HONOREES
ARLENE UHEREK VOJTEK FAMILY



CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY - TRAVIS
WILLIAMSON COUNTIES 2016 HONOREE
THEODORE VITEK



RVOS 2016 HONOREE
JULIUS DUBCAK



TOCA 2016 HONOREE
CHUCK AND JAN KALAT



CEFT 2016 HONOREE
JAMES SASSIN



TOCA HONORARY DIRECTOR
AWARD: LEONARD MIKESKA



2016 TOCA OFFICERS
PRESIDENT ARLENE CLOYD, VICE PRESIDENT KEVIN KANA,
SECRETARY TOM STAVINOHA, TREASURER DAN MARES



BOB AND DIANE PODHRASKY, BRIAN AND JOAN VANICEK,
LEONARD AND DOROTHY MIKESKA



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ARLENE CLOYD
AS OUTGOING PRESIDENT



JOSEPH BARTOSH AND JULIA JOHNSON



SPJST WINE HOSTS: FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR FRANK
HORAK, CONNIE HORAK, (LYNETTE'S MOTHER) RITA TALASEK, SPJST
STATE YOUTH DIRECTOR LYNETTE TALASEK



JOYCE KURTZ AND GRACE VINKLAREK OF KJZT HELPED WITH REGISTRATION



HENRY AND SUSAN MACHICEK ENTERTAINED BEFORE AND AFTER THE AWARD CEREMONY.



TOCA BOARD MEMBERS met in Austin at the KJZT Office. Top L-R: Brian Vanicek, Joseph Bartosh, Tom Stavinoha, Richard Skopik, Waymond Davis, Dan Mares, Leon Anhauser, Kay Brouska, Grace Vinklarek, Charles Chandler. Seated L-R: Jane Reynolds, Jean Davis, Bettye Anhauser, Evelyn Skopik, Retta Chandler, Vlasta Vitek, Phyllis Tykel, Arlene Cloyd.



Barbara and Charles Phipps presented a donation to TCHCC President Retta Chandler from the Polka Lovers Klub of America, Chapter 2, North Texas Region. We thank you, dekuji.



RVOS DONATION: RVOS presented a \$5,000 donation to TCHCC at the TOCA Appreciation Dinner. Top L-R: RVOS Representatives Julius Dubcak, Donna Vanek and Dennis Vanek, TCHCC Vice President Joseph Bartosh, RVOS Representatives Tom Stavinoha, Charles Chandler Bottom L-R: RVOS Representatives Jeanie Dubcak & Clarice Snokhous, TCHCC President Retta Chandler, Diane Wilson, Wayne Wilson. Dekuji Moc.

VALENTINE DINNER & CONCERT

February 13, 2016



TCHCC Valentine Dinner & Concert continued...



WEEKLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL TOURS



The La Grange Rotary Club (pictured right) meets every Wednesday in the Hanslik Hall at TCHCC. Their weekly luncheons include a speaker/presentation. In the photo (below right) the Air Vac Life Team, stationed at St. Marks Medical Hospital, visited the grounds and presented.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES MET AT TCHCC

Four area electric co-ops chose to use the facilities at TCHCC for their Annual Rural Electric Cooperative Meeting. After meeting and touring TCHCC and the Czech village they posed for a picture. Back row: Greg Adams, San Bernard Electric Cooperative; John Spiess, San Bernard Electric Cooperative; and Matt Gonzales, Pedernales Electric Cooperative. Middle row: Tracy Averitt, Fayette Electric Cooperative; Catherine Poppe, Fayette Electric Cooperative; Chelsea Mertz, Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative; Front row: Karen Marshall and Diana Gonzales, Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

Texas Czech Heritage and Culture Center
Genealogy Workshop - A Hands-On Approach to the Archives
Unlocking the Past
July 23,2016 Limited to 30 participants
\$20.00 (includes lunch)
Registration Deadline: July 16 (limited seating)
BYOL: LAPTOP/TABLET & Genealogy Information

10:30-10:45 Registration

Participants will be separated into two groups. This will give each participant the opportunity to attend both sessions.

10:45-11:00

Joint Session: Presenter: Retta Chandler

What is available in the TCHCC Bill & Betty Melnar Library

11:00-12:00

Session 1: Presenter Robert Janak

Power-point presentation reviewing the audience on the old German handwriting that was used in church records in the Czech Lands in the early nineteenth century. Participants will have the opportunity to read and decipher excerpts from original church records in the old German handwriting.

Session 2: Presenter Victor Havel

Searching the Czech Archives—How to access and use the records—Hands on assistance (with your computer)

12:00-1:00 Hanslik Hall - Lunch

1:30-2:30

Session 1: Presenter Robert Janak

Power-point presentation reviewing the audience on the old German handwriting that was used in church records in the Czech Lands in the early nineteenth century. Participants will have the opportunity to read and decipher excerpts from original church records in the old German handwriting.

Session 2: Presenter Victor Havel

Searching the Czech Archives—How to access and use the records—Hands on (with your computer)

2:45-3:00 PM

Joint Session: Presenter: Janis Hrcir

Wrap up Session in the Bill & Betty Melnar Library

3:00-5:00 PM Guided Research or Independent Research in the Library

REGISTRATION FOR TCHCC GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
JULY 23,2016 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 16

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ZIP _____

PHONE# _____ EMAIL _____

PLEASE SIGN ME UP! My check for \$20.00 made payable to TCHCC is enclosed.
I understand this covers all hand-out materials and lunch. MAIL TO: TCHCC, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945

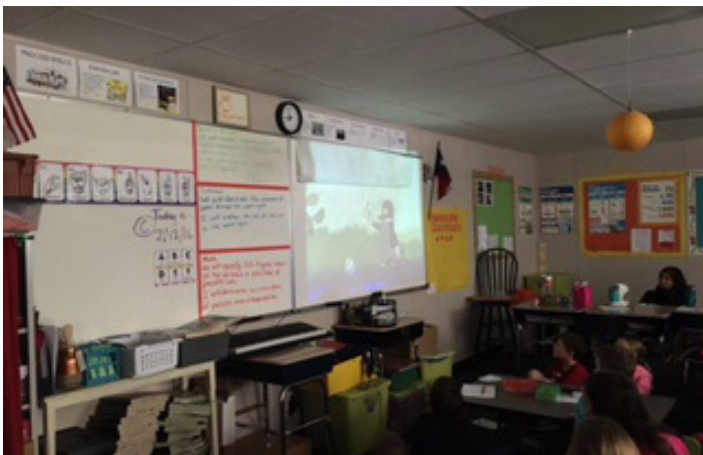
Students Learn About Czech History

For students at Ray Elementary School in Hutto, Texas, February 12, 2016, was a special day. Two classes were combined to hear a presentation about the early settlers that came to Texas from the Czechlands. Lorenda and Johnnie Polasek brought a video, artifacts, and other related items to tell the story.

Fourth grade students from the classes of Ms. Vasko and Ms. Coy gathered for an hour and a half presentation. The presentation included some history of Texas and the Czechlands at the time when most Czechs arrived in Texas, examples of Czech words, Czech kolace, Czech music and traditions. Students enjoyed a variety of the Czech kolace. Even the well-known Czech animated beloved cartoon character, Krtek, was introduced.

“It was a pleasure for Johnnie and me to bring this information to the students. They asked very good questions and were extremely attentive” said Lorenda Polasek. Mr. Polasek is past Vice-President and Director of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC). Mrs. Polasek is the Chairman of the TCHCC Gift Shop. Top L-R: The students sample kolace, and Lorenda Polasek read to the students from one of Krtek’s adventures.. Bottom L-R: A video of Krtek was viewed, Lorenda explained that Krtek is to the Czechs what Mickey Mouse is to Americans.

NOTE: Krtek was created by author Zdenek Miller, Czech illustrator and animator. Miller created the Little Mole over 55 years ago and he is featured in over 50 cartoons. Lorenda Polasek told the students about Krtek, the size she help up in her hands was the size carried into space with NASA astronaut Andrew Feustel. Krtek is available in several sizes in TCHCC’s Gift Shop.



DESTINATIONS FOR SENIORS DAY was held in Humble, Texas. Harris County trip planners attend this bi-yearly function for the purpose of planning chartered day tours around Texas. L-R: Johnnie and Lorenda Polasek, TCHCC Gift Shop Manager, and Mark Hermis, TCHCC Manager attended this year's event and provided valuable information for visitors.



Harris County Precinct Buses bring tour groups on a regular basis to tour.



A recent tour included 43 members of the Hyde Park Baptist Church from Austin, Texas

RECOGNITION CEREMONY HELD AT TCHCC

Major Donors to the Czech Village, the Černošek Family and the Dickson-Allen Foundation, were honored with a walk-through and reception on April 23, 2016, at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in LaGrange.

The Černošek Family provided the funding to build a maintenance building that will be used for storing equipment, assembling items for other parts of the Center and also for building displays for the museum. We were in great need of a building to take care of behind-the-scene work and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

A partnership with funding from Dickson-Allen Foundation, a donation of an antique sawmill from Donna Zapalač Mueller, and the intense volunteer hard work of talented men from the South Texas Wheel Spinners and Crank Twisters Club and TCHCC, the Zapalač Sawmill is in operation. Thank you so much for this major contribution.



Left: Members of the Černošek Family: Bailey, Carmen, Molly, Richard, Lisa and Chris (top back). Right below: Jessie Allen (center) Dr. Thomas and Donna Zapalač Mueller (left center) are surrounded by TCHCC volunteers and members of the South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters Club.



NEW ADDITION OF POLKA LOVER'S CLUB NAMED FOR MSGR. JOSEPH HYBNER

Msgr. Joseph M. Hvbner did the honors Sunday, February 28, 2016 at the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Dedication Ceremony for the new addition to the Polka Lover's Club of Texas Museum (PLCM) located on the TCHCC grounds in the Czech Village. There were over 150 in attendance and after the ribbon cutting, guests were invited in for more ceremonial events and refreshments. Speakers were Msgr. Hvbner and Sanford Schmid, both were significant donors to the project, Willie Bohuslav, PLCM president, spoke as well.

The room will be used for PLCM meetings and special events. The addition also includes restroom facilities and a catering kitchen. The walls allow great space for more displays of photos, artifacts and memorabilia of the Polka Lover's Club of Texas.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CZECH LANDS AND THE PEOPLE WHO INHABIT THEM

By Carolyn Sumbera Heinsohn

The Czech Republic, a land locked country that is known as the “Heart of Europe”, was part of Czechoslovakia from 1918 to the end of 1992. Prior to 1918, Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia were under the rule of the Empire of Austria-Hungary. When Czechoslovakia was created, only a small part of Silesia was included along with Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. Now the Czech Republic only includes what once was Bohemia and Moravia. Slovakia chose to be its own country, the Slovak Republic.

Czechs are known to be relatively passive, yet fun-loving people, who are passionate about music, singing and dancing. They are musical by nature, very creative, inventive and mechanically-inclined with an incredible work ethic. They also have a propensity for technical ingenuity. The Czech Republic is a country that clearly rises above others when it comes to technological innovation and invention. There is an old Czech adage, “Zlaté české ručičky a chytré české hlavičky”, meaning “golden Czech hands and clever Czech heads”.

Czechs are generally physically fit, love the outdoors and are very connected to nature. Education is very important to Czechs – a great majority attend universities and get advanced degrees. However, many people are not fully aware of the significant achievements and colorful history of Czechs, whose connection to the outside world was limited during the forty years of Communist rule. Since the Velvet Revolution and the toppling of Communist rule in 1989, the world is being enlightened about the beauty of the country and its people. Here are some interesting facts about the lands of our forefathers, the history and culture of Czechs, as well as their achievements.

- There are approximately 2,500 castles, manors, mansions, chateaux and fortresses in the Czech and Slovak Republics – more than any other European country.
- There are 2,000 caves, caverns and chasms and 1,000 natural mineral springs in both countries.
- The first detailed description of Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, was written in 965 A.D. in Arabic. Prague, situated at the center of Europe, is known as “The Golden City of a Hundred Spires”; it has 2,500 historical buildings and some 500 towers and spires.
- The Paleolithic settlement at Dolní Věstonice, South Moravia, is considered to be the earliest known production center for ceramics in the world (over 25,000 years ago). The oldest known abacus (counting board) and musical instrument were discovered in the same place.
- The first gothic monastery in Central and Eastern Europe was founded in Prague in 1234 by Saint Agnes, a Bohemian princess.
- The Old-New Synagogue built in Prague in 1270 is the oldest preserved synagogue in Central and Eastern Europe.
- The choir of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, begun in 1344, had the very first gothic net vault.
- Charles University in Prague, the first university in Central Europe, was founded in 1348.
- The largest Jesuit center in the world, the Prague Clementinum, was founded in 1556. The first high school (academic gymnasium) in the Empire of Austria was founded in Prague that same year.
- The china altar of the Russian Church at Mariánské Lázně in western Bohemia is the largest porcelain artifact in the world.
- Blasting gunpowder was first used in mining in Slovakia in 1627.
- Jan Žižka, a Hussite military leader in the 15th century, introduced field artillery, as well as pistols and howitzers, the names of which are now part of the English language.
- The first known Czech in America was Augustin Heřman, a geographer, who settled in New Amsterdam (New York) in 1644. He founded tobacco plantations in Virginia and drew the first maps of Virginia and Maryland.
- Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius), born in Moravia, was a great educator in the 17th century who was known as the “teacher of nations”; he was the author of the first illustrated textbook, the greatest bishop of the Unity of Brethren and was considered for the office of first president of Harvard University.
- Jan Jesenský, a physician in the 17th century, performed the first public dissection.
- The world’s oldest technical university still in existence was founded in Prague in 1707.
- The world’s first vocational mining school opened at Jáchymov in western Bohemia in 1716. The very first silver dollar coins, called thalers, were already minted there in the 16th century. The first uranium mine in the world opened there in 1854. The first greatest discoveries in our Atomic Age were made by Curie, Rutherford and Hahn with uranium from Jáchymov.
- Alois Senefelder developed the printing technique of lithography in 1796.
- The first Central European conservatory of music was founded in Prague in 1811.
- Josef Kessel invented and patented the ship’s screw (propeller) in 1826. He also took out patents for ball bearings, a rolling mill and a primitive steam engine.
- The first European continental railroad was constructed in 1827 in South Bohemia; it ran from České Budějovice to Linz, Austria.
- Karel Postel, whose pseudonym was Charles Sealsford, was in Texas in 1827-28 and was one of the first authors to write about American Indians.

- Jakub Kryštof Rad, the director of a sugar refinery in Dačice, Bohemia, created the sugar cube in 1843, a major improvement to the large sugar loaves that had to be cut into useable pieces.
- The world's first vocational glassmaking school opened in 1856 at Kamenický Šenov.
- Kaspar Sternberg was the founder of paleobotany in the 18th century. He also established the Bohemian National Museum in Prague with his collections of minerals, fossils and plant specimens.
- The modern ploughshare was invented in the 19th century by Czech brothers, František and Václav Veverka, a farmer and blacksmith.
- The great Czech composer Antonin Dvořák, became the director of the Academy of Music in New York in 1892. He glorified this country with his famous symphony "From the New World" in 1893.
- The very first motor car in the Empire of Austria was produced at the Tatra plant at Kopřivnice, Moravia in 1897.
- In doing research, Jan Janský, a psychiatrist and neurologist, learned in 1907 that human blood could be classified into four groups. In 1921, Janský was recognized for paving the way for the ABO blood group system that was developed by an American biologist Karl Landsteiner.
- František Křižík, a 19th century Czech technician, refined the electric arc lamp, which later came to be used around the world for public lighting. A friend and collaborator of Thomas Edison, he also was a pioneer in developing railway signaling devices, electric tramway lines and power stations.
- Jan Evangelista Purkyně, a 19th century physician and scientist, made advances in cellular biology and the use of the compound microscope. He discovered the Purkinje cells in the cerebellum that play a role in muscle coordination, studied the Purkinje fibers in the heart that transmit nerve impulses, discovered that all human fingerprints are unique and could be used for identification and worked on eye movements and how human vision functions, presaging the advent of cinematography.
- Otto Wichterle, an outstanding specialist in macromolecular chemistry, invented contact lenses of flexible plastic in 1961. His patent was sold by the Communist government to a U.S. company that started mass-producing the lenses.
- Tomáš Bata founded the famous shoe-making company in Zlín, Moravia. Bata shoes could be found in 90 countries at one time. The company created the forerunner of the tennis shoe in WWII when there was a shortage of leather. They made canvas shoes that were shellacked to make them waterproof.
- Emil Škoda organized the famous Czech engineering company that delivered parts in the 19th century for the hydroelectric power station at Niagara Falls.
- Emil Kolben, who founded the famous Prague electrical engineering company, was an assistant to Thomas Edison in East Orange, New Jersey. The first European theatre with electric illumination was opened by Thomas Edison in 1883 in Brno, the capital of Moravia.
- Johann Gregor Mendel, born in Moravia, was the founder of genetics in the 19th century.
- Sigmund Freud, born in Příbor, Moravia, was the founder of psychoanalysis.
- Karl Rokitský, a Bohemian physician and pathologist, was the founder of pathological anatomy in the 19th century and performed thousands of autopsies. He helped shift the premise that medicine was a branch of natural philosophy to the more modern notion that medicine is a science which has evolved into specialties.
- Eduard Albert founded a famous school of surgery in the 19th century.
- Alfons Mucha was a famous 19th century Czech Art Nouveau painter and decorative artist best known for his distinct style. He produced many paintings, illustrations, theater posters, advertisements, postcards and jewelry designs.
- Aurel Boleslav Stodola, a Slovak engineer, physicist and inventor, was a pioneer in the area of technical thermodynamics; he invented the turbo-jet engine and helped develop gas turbines. He founded the Laboratory of Energy Conversion. Albert Einstein was one of his students when he worked as a professor at the Swiss Polytechnic Institute.
- Bernardo Bolzano, a philosopher and mathematician, was a pioneer of modern logic.
- Štefan Banič, a Slovak inventor who moved to Pennsylvania, developed a military parachute after witnessing a plane crash in 1912. He sold his patent to the U.S. Army, and his parachute saved many lives of American aviators during WWI. He moved back to Czechoslovakia after the war.
- František Burian was the founder of a 20th century plastic surgery school.
- The word "robot" was first used to denote a fictional humanoid in a 1921 play R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots) by the Czech writer, Karel Čapek.
- Polarography was devised by Czech chemist Jaroslav Heyrovský in 1922; he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in recognition for his work in 1959.
- Antonín Mrkos was an Antarctic explorer; Václav Vojtěch participated in Byrd's Antarctic expedition in 1928. • Czechs have been world leaders in the production and export of armaments. A Czech chemist, Stanislav Brebera, developed the general-purpose plastic explosive Semtex at the end of the 1950s. Its name was derived from the village Semtin near Pardubice, Bohemia, which was the home of the Explosia factory that began to mass-produce the explosive in the mid-1960s.

- The first open-end spinning mill in the world was developed in 1955 at the Cotton Research Institute at Ustí nad Orlicí in eastern Bohemia.
- Besides contact lenses and tennis shoes, other important Czech contributions to American life, both past and present, are: Budweiser beer that is a copy of the Budweis beer made in České Budějovice, Bohemia (Budweis is the German name for the town); kolače, the polka, Koh-I-Noor pencils, Bohemian crystal and glass, Supraphon records and Artia books.

The article printed on the previous two pages was written by Carolyn Heinsohn from information taken from CZECHOSLOVAKIA INFORMATION MINIMUM by Vaclav Huňáček as well as up-to-date information online and from Wikipedia.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA Information Minimum

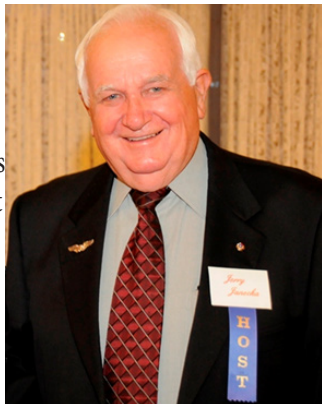
Dr. Vaclav Huňáček, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Published by Texas Education Agency 1970 during his one-year stay as a visiting consultant in foreign languages and social studies at TEA with the assistance of Dr. Joseph J. Skrivanek and Dr. John M. Skrivanek, both from the Department of Modern Languages, Texas A & M. It was reprinted in 1980 under the direction of Leroy F. Psencik, Division of Curriculum Development with the purpose of furnishing teachers with information based not only on American, but also on Czechoslovak sources.

This 70+ booklet (including charts, maps and an extensive bibliography) can be viewed in TCHCC's Bill and Betty Melnar Genealogy Library.

OUR APOLOGIES

Jerry Janecka's 2015 donation to TCHCC through the San Antonio Gala was missed in the last newsletter. Jerry has worked tirelessly at the San Antonio Glass that benefits TCHCC. We cannot thank him enough for his many years of dedicated volunteerism and contribution to preserving Czech heritage.



A note from a reader: Carolyn Heinsohn received a letter from a TCHCC member and wanted to share it with all of you. The Czech Weddings of the Past article appeared in the Fall edition of the *Náš Český Život*.

Dear Mrs. Heinsohn,
I just read your *Czech Weddings of the Past* and loved it. I had read about the similar customs of Texas German weddings in Texas (groomsmen delivering wedding invitations in person...) But I knew nothing of the bride's blessing by her parents or the unveiling ceremony. This was wonderful information. My father, born in the old country in 1906, had such a hard time at first in Texas that he never spoke Czech unless he was with friends... None of his five children were permitted to study any foreign language until college. So, none of us learned much of Czech culture. Many thanks for your article.

Yours truly, Mrs. Alan Kownslar, San Antonio, Texas.

TCHCC'S CZECH CLASSES

will be changing dates and instructor

Classes will be held on the Second Saturdays of the month beginning at 1 PM

TCHCC has invited Alice Adam to teach our Conversational Czech Classes on the second Saturdays of each month. This is a change from the Sunday schedule we have had in the past.

Ms. Adam is a Houston lawyer by profession and a native-born Czech from Prague who immigrated to the US in 1968.

Pictured left to right: Barbara Hruby, Clarice and Ray Snokhous, Alice Adam, Susan Chandler, Retta Chandler, Grace Anne Wilhelm
A note from a reader: Carolyn Heinsohn received a letter from a TCHCC member and wanted to share it with all of you. The Czech Weddings of the Past article appeared in the Fall edition of the *Náš Český Život*.



CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

(January - April, 2016)

DONATIONS

Benefactor

RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company

Pioneer

Richard G. & Molly Černošek
Czech Heritage Society of Texas

Donor

WFLA - Cedar Rapids

Gary Meek

Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Bohlmann - Matching Gift from
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San Antonio Gala

Jerome J. and Ann Janečka

GRANTS

Kocurek Charitable Foundation

ENTRY PAVING STONES

Majek, Nagowski & Ormand families

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In Memory of Eugene A. Patalik, Sr

Elizabeth C. Patalik

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In Memory of Anton Pustejovsky, CEFT Director

Shirley & Wayne Carle

In Memory of Sally Rosipal Fletcher

Eileen Rosipal & Family

In Memory & Honor of Raymond Snokhous

Andrew and Indira Feustel

BELFRY FUND DONATIONS

In Memory of Lawrence F. Barcak

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In Memory of Eugene Perrad

CHS-Ft. Bend County

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In Memory of Arnold Bohuslav

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In Memory of Paula Heinsohn

Richard G. and Molly Černošek

In Memory of Evelyn Ilse Jecmenek

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In Memory of Allen Naiser

Hattie Drozd

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ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Raymond Snokhous

Patricia Parma

Rudy Rejcek and wife Janie are pictured at the 2012 TCHCC Gala when he donated his clarinet and saxophone to TCHCC's Czech Music Museum of Texas.



CZECH VILLAGE PROTECT

John E. Gruener Family
David & Diane Liska

In Memory of Robert Kasper

In Memory of Edwin Kuehn

South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank
Twisters Club

ZAPALAC SAW MILL

DONATIONS

Dr. Thomas & Donna Zapalac Mueller

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Dorothy Bujnoch
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Jo Ellen Fisher Coker
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John Dujka
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Gift from Joyce Madden
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BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP 2016
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Czech Heritage Society of TX
South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters Club
Polka Lovers Klub of America
WFLA - Cedar Rapid
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 2017
Robert D. Hejl
Willie G. Petruy
LIBRARY/MUSEUM DONATION
Hukvaldy, 4 volumes of marriage and death records.
Print of Lavaca County Courthouse by Dalhart
Windberg; Framed *Novy Domov* Newspaper Print,
Framed *Vestnik* Newspaper Print. **Robert Janak**
Czech Bible and two Czech Dolls. **Jolene Pospisil**
20 "Czech doll. **Pete & Annimae Merta**
2 records, 26 music cassettes. **Joyce Pittman**
Czech and German Texan obituaries in binders plus
pedigree charts. **Angelina Genzer Kretzschmar**
Prochaska/Viaclovsky and Prazak/ Vacek Family
Histories. **Jim and Wilma Kulcak.**

Vlasta Javořická Collection at TCHCC Bill and Betty Melnar Library

Through the generosity of Georgina Braní one of the granddaughters of Vlasta Javoricka, the library has received approximately 140 books written by the author as well as a collection of books from her own personal library.

Vlasta Javořická was the author of over 240 items, of which there is a six volume autobiography of her life and 113 novels that she wrote for adults and young people focusing on narrative tales and short stories. She wrote feminine literature and tried to create folk reading which was filled with sentiment and a spirit of Catholic morality.

She did not shy away from letting her opinions be known, either. She wrote a letter to Stalin expressing her disappointment regarding the Soviet Unions control of Czechoslovakia. From 1946-1989 Czechoslovakia published only two of her works and her books were removed from libraries. She had four daughters and two sons. Three of her daughters emigrated to the US in the 1950s and she was able to visit them in 1964 for a three month period. At that time, she was able to be received by admirers such as the literary group pictured below. She wrote numerous periodicals and after her visit to Texas, sent several articles and serials that were published in the *Novy Domov*. Her books have gone through several printing and presently she is the fifth most popularly-read author in the Czech Republic.

Vlastas real name was Marie Barešová. She married František Zezulka. She chose her pseudonum after the Javorice moutains that were close to home. She was born in Studená u Telče in 1890 and died in 1979 in Velký Újezd u Moravsky Budějovice, (source: Wikipedia/conversation with Georgina Brand)



Czech novelist and folklore writer Vlasta Javořická seated third from the left, was the guest of honor at an open house in Hallettsville Sunday arranged by publisher and Mrs. Walter Malec. Pictured with her are local writers and contributors to the Czech weekly *Novy Domov* published at Hallettsville, who gathered for this memorable event in the company of the popular, kind and amiable personality whose writings have won the hearts of readers of Czech folklore.

Also in the picture, seated from left to right are Mrs. John Urbish, assistant editor of the *Novy Domov*, Mrs. Benita Pavlu, KJZT president; the honoree, and Mrs. Novak poetess of East Bernard. Standing, left to right are Editor John Janeček. Msgr. Joseph Kunc of East Bernard, Bishop John L. Morkovsky of Houston, Msgr. Alois Morkovsky and Publisher Walter Malec.

Her presence in Hallettsville Sunday brought together a host of guests, among them Bishop John L. Morkovsky, bishop coadjutor of the Galveston-Houston diocese who had just returned from Rome and a visit to Czechoslovakia; Msgr. Alois Morkovsky of Hallettsville, Msgr. Joseph Kunc of East Bernard, correspondents of the Czech weekly *Novy Domov* and other guests including Rev. John Hanacek and Joseph Muras of Shiner, Editor and Mrs. John Janeček of Yoakum, Rev. Peter Esterka of Karnes City, former assistant pastor at Yoakum; Mrs. Benita Pavlu, KJZT Supreme President and her husband, Joe Pavlu of Granger; Miss Ann Malec, *Tribune* Society Editor, Mrs. John Urbish, assistant editor of the *Novy Domov*, and her husband, and a host of other guests.

The honoree was accompanied to Hallettsville by her daughter and her husband, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Cech of San Antonio.

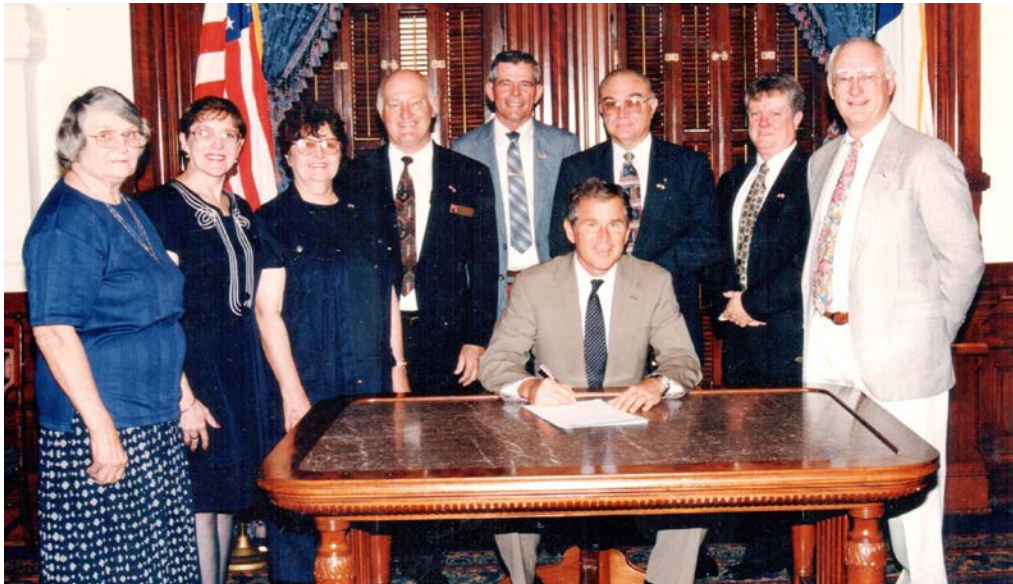
Her Texas admirers were quite generous in contributions and the presentation was made by Bishop John Morkovsky, Publisher Malec and also in behalf of the KJZT by Mrs. Pavlu, representing the largest Czech Catholic womens' organization in the state.

The distinguished writer will continue on her visit to this country until early next year under a program of apparently relaxed tourist restrictions from her homeland. (*Yoakum Herald Times*, December 29, 1964)

THE TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu

And so it began... 1997



TCHCC RESOLUTION SOGNEED BY GOVERNOR

Governor George Bush signed a resolution on July 14, 1997 From the Texas House of Representatives and Senate recognizing all those associated with the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center to be built in La Grange, Texas. The resolution further recognizes the contributions of Texans of Czech ethnicity to the state's history and that Fayette County, which is known as the *Cradle of Czech Immigration*, is an appropriate site for the Center.

House Concurrent Resolution Number 265, which was sponsored by Representative Tom Uher, Speaker Pro Tempore, was adopted by the 75th State Legislature on May 16, 1997. Representatives of Czech descent who co-sponsored the resolution were Dan Kubiak, Kyle Janek and Zeb D. Zbranek.

Pictured with Governor Bush signing the resolution were left to right, Dorothy Bohac, director; Carolyn Meiners, secretary; Retta Chandler, president and chairman of the board; Eugene Labay, director; Arnold Pechal, treasurer; Elo J. Goerig, vice-president and director; Woody Smith, director and Representative Tom Uher. Board Members not present were George Hruby, Glenn Hutka, Howard Leshikar and Larry Laznovsky.



Site Development Committee Appointed

The TCHCC Site Development Committee, appointed and chaired by President Retta Chandler, is actively working on the initial phases of development of the Center, the first stage being the Walking Trail. The other members of the committee are: Elo J. Goerig, La Grange, Bernard Rychlik, Caldwell, Don Chovanec, La Grange and Pat Parma, Richmond. The La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce and Fayette County Industrial Foundation are being represented by Tim Kenesek and Bruce Frenzel.

Pictured left to right: Architect Brad Cutright, Pat Parma, Don Chovanec, Tim Knesek, Retta Chandler and Bruce Frenzel.

History in the Making - Official Signing of Land Lease with La Grange

On November 1, 1997, representatives from the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc., the City of La Grange, Fayette County and the La Grange Chamber of Commerce had the official signing of the land lease between TCHCC and the City of La Grange at the future site of the cultural center.

La Grange is located between Houston, Austin, Waco, Victoria and Bryan-College Station at the intersection of Highways 77 and 71. The 70 acres of property located adjacent to the Fayette County Fairgrounds on Highway 77 north, and within the city limits will give visitors an opportunity to focus on the past and present contributions of Texans of Czech descent. This beautiful piece of land has a high bluff overlooking the valley, river frontage, a pecan orchard, old oak trees and is a perfect spot to commune with nature. Retta Chandler, TCHCC president, said, "I clearly remember walking the grounds, looking across the Colorado River Valley, and I could imagine those early Texas Czech pioneers being reminded of their homeland." She states that she had gone back to the Czech lands several times to see where her father was born and where her grandparents on both sides of her family lived. She said that this property reminded her of those places in the Czech homeland.

TCHCC Logo Created by Rome Milan

The logo for the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center was designed by Roma Milan of Fort Worth, who is known for his many talents. He is an artist, painting primarily impressionist works with oils, who has his art work in various locations in several states. Mr. Milan is also known through the state and nationally for his leadership in gymnastics. He is a coach at Boswell High School in Saginaw, near Fort Worth. As a certified judge for mens gymnastics, he judges many national meets, he is also recognized for his leadership in Sokol in Fort Worth, the Southern District, and the American Sokol.

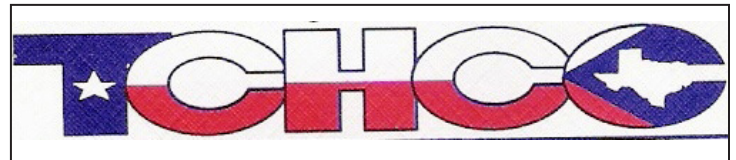
The son of Jerry and Henrietta Milan of Fort Worth, he inherited his talents from his parents. His father is a retired high school gymnastic coach, and his mother is an artist who specializes in oil paintings. They own and operate the Milan Gallery in Fort Worth.



George Hlavinka in his workshop in Caldwell, Texas



Pictured left to right: George Hruby, Director; Arnold Pechal, Treasurer; John Černošek, City Councilman; Chris Černošek, La Grange Chamber of Commerce; Judge Ed Janečka; Chairman of the Board, Retta Chandler, signing the lease.



Hlavinka Will Build TCHCC Walking Trail Shelters...

George states, "In everyone's lifetime, there is a high point. In my career my high point is to become involved with the statewide Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center being built in La Grange."

Cutright and Allen Architects have selected George Hlavinka of Caldwell, Texas to design and make the shelters for the stations along the Walking Trail. George plans to make a variety of rustic styles with hand split shingle roofs, based on the Wallachian and Moravian architecture. Cedar wood, which is local to this area, will give a perfect Texas Czech blend to the structures.

The Hlavinka family emigrated to Texas at the turn-of-the-century and settled in East Bernard, which had a large Czech population. George was the youngest of seven children born to Martin and Victoria Hlavinka. George is proud of his Czech heritage and is still proficient in the Czech language which he learned in childhood.

He worked with a floor covering business for thirty years in Houston, before buying a small farm in Burleson County. He then followed his dream to become a full-time woodworker and designer, building custom furniture. During the past eleven years, George has made seven trips to the Czech Republic, learning more and more about his heritage...absorbing the architecture, historical furniture pieces and handicrafts.

TCHCC Memorials can be made to your deceased loved ones or to honor a family member that is still active in promoting Czech culture and tradition.

IMMIGRANTS' WALL

A stone wall with engravings on plaques that include the name(s) of the immigrant(s), village of origin and date that he/she/they arrived in the United States. Plaques are available for \$2500. Contact us for details.

ENTRY PAVING STONES

A 12" x 12" pink granite stone will be engraved with your choice of wording up to 40 letters. These stones are in the entryway of the Czech Center and are available for \$1,000. Contact us for details.

ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

For \$250 a brick will be placed along the Rose Garden path that lines the entry sidewalk to the Czech Center. The brick will be inscribed with your choice of wording. Contact us for details.

MEMORIAL BRICK PAVERS

A brick paver will be engraved with your choice of wording for \$100. The bricks will be placed in the sidewalk leading from the flagpoles to the steps that enter the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

BELL & BELFRY

For donations of \$50 or more, inscriptions are placed on the memorial sign. For donations under \$50, a record of donation is made on a parchment list.

AMPHITHEATER SUPPORTERS

A designated amphitheater seat will be reserved with your name plate. Participant can reserve this seat whenever there is an event at the Amphitheater by calling ahead. Seats range: \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER.

Donation amounts are recognized by levels:

- _____ Permanent Endowment Fund
- _____ Maintenance and Operations
- _____ Other: _____
- \$200,000 _____ Five Star
- 100,000 _____ Platinum Benefactor
- 50,000 _____ Gold Benefactor
- 25,000 _____ Silver Benefactor
- 10,000 _____ Bronze Benefactor
- 5,000 _____ Benefactor
- 2,500 _____ President's Circle
- 2,000 _____ Pioneer
- 1,500 _____ Heritage Friend
- 1,000 _____ Founder
- 750 _____ Steward
- 500 _____ Patron
- 250 _____ Donor
- 150 _____ Special Friend
- 100 _____ Friend

**Membership from
January 1—December 31**

- \$250 _____ Corporate
- \$100 _____ Non-Profit Organization
- \$ 50 _____ Family
- \$ 35 _____ Individual
- \$ _____ Other ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)
- Benefits: Annual Calendar and Nas Cesky Zivot newsletters

MEMORIALS can be made to honor someone living, on their birthday or anniversary etc., or the memory of a deceased friend or family member.

FOR _____

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Donor: Name _____

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MAIL TO:

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2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 25 TCHCC & CHS Youth and Family Day
July 23 Genealogy Workshop *Unlocking the Past* (Page 9)
October 14-15 Heritage Fest & Muziky
December 3 TCHCC Christmas Open House and 7th Annual Gala
* Second Saturdays of the Month: Czech Conversational Classes 1 PM



FLAG SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorships are being accepted to cover the replacement cost of the flags that grace the front of the Center. The flags are replaced twice a year.

Please consider a sponsorship.

Current Sponsor: In Honor of Our Czech and Slovak Immigrants.

Donor: Anonymous.